

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01
PRS-01 IO-13 /125 W

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R 060605Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2495
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0448

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, QA
SUBJECT: QATARI OIL MINISTER ON OPEC SITUATION, ETC.

REF: DOHA 427, DOHA 378

1. DURING APR 4 MEETING WITH VISITING AMB MAESTRONE AND AMB, QATARI MIN OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ BIN KHALIFA AL THANI COMMENTED ON CURRENT OPEC SITUATION. ABDUL AZIZ EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE EXTRAORDINARY OPEC MEETING, AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL BEFORE REGULARLY SCHEDULED JULY CONCLAVE AT LEAST TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR RESOLUTION OF TWO-TIER PRICE PROBLEM. ABDUL AZIZ SAID HE NOT RPT NOT IN FAVOR OF UAE-SUGGESTED OPEC SUMMIT FOR THIS PURPOSE. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, HE SAID THERE WAS NO RPT NO AGREEMENT AS YET ON HOLDING ANY SUCH EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING. HE REITERATED THAT TWO-TIER PRICE SITUATION TOLERABLE UNLESS SAUDIS GREATLY EXPANDED PRODUCTION. RE LATTER, CONFIDENTIAL

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HE REPEATED THAT HE DID NOT THINK SAUDIS COULD OR WOULD EXPAND PRODUCTION IN DELIBERATE EFFORT TO DAMAGE OTHER OPEC COUNTRIES; HOWEVER, HE WARNED, DOING THIS WOULD CREATE WHOLE NEW SITUATION.

2. RE JULY 1 SCHEDULED 5 PERCENT PRICE HIKE BY ELEVEN, ABDUL AZIZ ASSERTED THAT THIS WAS "CONFIRMED" SINCE NO RPT NO COMPRO-MISE ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE TWO AND THE

ELEVEN. HE SAID THERE COULD BE PUSH FOR MORE THAN 5 PERCENT, BY THOSE COUNTRIES WHO WOULD SUFFER REVENUE LOSSES BECAUSE OF DECREASED PRODUCTION DURING FIRST HALF OF 1977, AND IN THIS CONTEXT HE MENTIONED IRAN, IRAQ AND KUWAIT.

3. RE RECENT VISIT BY UAE OIL MINISTER UTAYBA, ABDUL AZIZ SAID PURPOSE WAS TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO JOINTLY-OWNED BUNDUQ FIELD, AND WAS OTHERWISE A NORMAL CONSULTATION BETWEEN "BROTHER GULF AND OPEC COUNTRIES."

4. REST OF CONVERSATION WAS TAKEN UP BY INCLONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION OF EFFECTS OF OIL PRICES ON WORLD INFLATION AND LINKAGE BETWEEN OIL PRICES AND MID EAST SETTLEMENT. ABDUL AZIZ REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE OIL PRICE RISES AS BASIC FACTOR IN INFLATIONARY SPIRAL, AND INSISTED ON DIRECT LINGKAGE BETWEEN OIL PRICES AND U.S. PERFORMANCE ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, ALL OUR ARGUMENTS TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING.
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